

December 1, 2011

Comments to the DEC

Hello, my comments will be in response to what is missing from the DSGEIS and that is a counter response to the 3 main talking points that I keep hearing from the Drill Baby Drill crowd. But first, I must say that the people against drilling are not being over-emotional or over-reacting. We are just concerned NY residents that are from all walks of life, different ages, and backgrounds. It is not just the environmentalists taking a stand against drilling but many people that are united by fear.

Folks in favor of drilling keep talking about jobs, money, and their land rights. Gas drilling will bring in jobs but the majority of them will not be given to NY state residents and many of them will be only for the short-term. There are lots of jobs in alternative energy, especially the solar industry. I know this because my twin sons and 6 other kids from Ithaca are currently working construction & installing solar farms in NJ, TN, KY, NC, SC, VT, PA, & CA. They are making good money but they aren't working in NY because we don't have the incentives for large solar installs. What we need is a solar jobs bill passed immediately to encourage renewable energy growth in New York State. Here is a picture of one of their recent jobs.

I also keep hearing about the money drilling is going to bring in. Well, tell that to the many of the people of Bradford County, PA where they have been putting up with all the disadvantages of gas drilling but don't have any royalty money yet. This is because over 1400 wells have been drilled but just over 50 of them have been fracked. With the glut of natural gas on the market and low prices it could be years before they see any money at all.

And BTW, why is Harrisburg, PA filing for bankruptcy if there is so much money to be made?

Then there is the mantra "it is my land and I can do what I want with it"! Once drilling starts these landowners will lose all control of their land as the gas companies will come in, take it over and put the rigs, roads, and wreckage wherever they want. Ask the farmers in West Virginia about this-they are losing all their best fields, meadows, and woodlands to drilling and truly losing their way of life. Plus, no one will want this land after it is drilled-especially the mortgage banks and insurance companies. These pro-frackers will be stuck with their worthless land and we will all be suffering the horrible side effects of gas drilling. So I say, they can do what with their land but not if it affects anyone else.

Anti-drilling folks are living under the same economic hardships as everyone in else in this state but don't want to sell out to the gas companies and see this gorgeous land, clean air and water ruined for short-term gain and unimaginable consequences. We all want economic prosperity and should be working together to solve our economic woes in ways that are beneficial for all generations to come.

Please withdraw this document and replace it by a ban against hydro-fracking. It is way past the time to implement a serious plan for conservation & renewable energy. I want leadership on this now.

I moved here over 25 years ago singing "I love NY" and I still do.

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